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PROPOSALS

Humbly offer'd to the Conſideration of

The Honourable Houſe of Commons,

For laying a POLL-TAX

On all *Horſes*, *Mares*, *Geldings*, &c. for one Year;

And a POUNDAGE-TAX

On all *Horſes*, *Mares*, *Geldings*, &c. that ſhall be Bought or Sold in *England*.

ALSO

An Annual Impoſition or Duty

ON ALL

WEIGHTS and *MEASURES* whatſoever;

As likewiſe

On all *Shopkeepers* and *Tradeſmen*.

PROPOSALS

Humbly offer'd to the Consideration of

The Honourable House of Commons;

For laying a POLL-TAX

On all Horſes, Mares, Colding, &c. for one Year;

And a FOUNDATOR-TAX

On all Horſes, Mares, Colding, &c that ſhall be

Bought or Sold in England.

ALSO

An Annual Impoſition or Duty

ON ALL

WEIGHTS and MEASURES whatſoever;

As likewiſe

On all Shopkeepers and Tradeſmen.

PROPOSALS *Humbly offerded to the Conſideration of the Honourable* HOUSE *of* COMMONS *for laying a Poll-Tax on all Horſes, Mares, Geldings,* &c. *for one Year; and a Poundage-Tax on all Horſes, Mares, Geldings,* &c. *that ſhall be bought or ſold in* England: *Alſo an Annual Impoſition or Duty on all Weights and Meaſures whatſoever; as likewiſe on all Shopkeepers and Tradeſmen.*

I. THAT there may be a Tax or Duty, by way of Poll, laid on all Horſes, Mares, Geldings, *&c.* that are upwards of five Years old; and valued to be worth five pounds.

II. That all Noblemen, Gentlemen and others, who keep Horſes, *&c.* either for the Coach, Saddle, Waggon, Cart, Dray, Plow, or any other uſe whatſoever, ſhall be obliged to cauſe the ſame to be given an account of, to the proper Perſons appointed for that purpoſe, upon the penalty of forfeiting to His Majeſty, with encouragement to the Informer.

III. That

III. That all Noblemen, Gentlemen and others, may, for each pare of Coach-Horſes *&c.* they have, pay as a Tax to His Majeſty, the ſum of eight ſhillings, (provided ſuch Nobleman, Gentleman, or other Perſon, does not keep above eight Coach Horſes, *&c.*) which ſaid ſum may be collected and paid at two ſeveral payments, (or otherwiſe) *viz.*

IV. That all Noblemen, Gentlemen and others, who keep Horſes, *&c.* for the Saddle, may, for each Horſe, *&c.* he or they ſo keep, pay as a Tax to His Majeſty, the ſum of four ſhillings, which ſaid ſum ſhall be collected and paid as aſoreſaid, provided each Horſe, *&c.* is valued to be worth five pounds.

V. That all Horſes, *&c.* employed in Waggons, all Pack Horſes, *&c*, all Stage or Hackney Coach Horſes, *&c.* Plow, Cart, Dray Horſes, *&c.* and all Oxen employed at Plow, Cart, *&c.* (where Horſes are commonly made uſe of) ſhall pay to His Majeſty, for each Horſe, *&c.* (or Oxen) ſo employed, or any other way made uſe of, the ſum of four ſhillings *per* Horſe, *&c.* (or Oxen) to be paid as aforeſaid, provided the ſaid Horſes, *&c.* are valued to be worth five pounds each.

VI. That no Nobleman, Gentleman or others, ſhall be obliged to pay for any young Horſe, *&c.* he or they bred out of their own ſtock, provided the ſame has not been made uſe of, or kept in the Stable three Months, except the ſame be above five Years old.

VII. That no Nobleman, Gentleman, or other Perſon whatſoever, ſhall be obliged to pay for more than eight Horſes, *&c.* howmany ſoever they, or either of them have; which ſaid Horſes, *&c.* ſhall be Aſſeſſed as aforeſaid.

Object.

Object. *The Noblemen and Gentlemen may alledge, this Poll Tax will be paid moſtly by them and the Country People, by reaſon, moſt of the indifferent People, (and ſome great Traders) as well as the more ordinary ſort of Traders of* London *and other Cities, have not ſuch occaſion for Horſes, and therefore conſequently will be excluded the ſaid Tax.*

Anſw. *There are many Traders in* London, *as well as other Cities in* England, *who keep Horſes,* &c. *and will come into the ſaid Tax; but if they were all excluded this, there are other ways enough to Tax the Traders of* London, *&c. (there being no Tax to be laid but what the Trading People muſt be a conſiderable part of it) when the Country Gentlemen and Farmers may be excluded wholly: And this will plainly appear by the following Part on Weights and Meaſures,* &c. *(which will overballance the inequallity of the foregoing Propoſals) That being wholly on the Trading People, and propoſed to be continued Annually, which in proportion to the abilities of the Gentlemen,* &c. *and the Trading People of* England, *will be heavier on the latter, than it will be on the former.*

VIII. It is further Propoſed to this *Honourable Houſe.* That there may be a Poundage Tax laid on all Horſes, *&c,* that ſhall be bough or ſold in the Kingdom of *England, &c.* from and after the Day of *viz.*

IX. That all and every Horſe or Horſes, *&c.* which ſhall be bought or ſold in any Market or Fair in *England, &c.* ſhall be regiſtred by the Town Clerk, or ſome other Perſon

appointed for that purpoſe, with the Names and places of abode of the buyer and ſeller: The buyer paying ſix pence *per* pound for each Horſe, *&c.* he ſhall ſo buy; and he that neglects ſo to do ſhall forfeit to His Majeſty, with encouragement to the Informer.

X. That all, or any Perſon or Perſons, who ſhall buy any Horſe or Horſes, *&c.* of a private Perſon, or not in any Fair or Market, ſhall be obliged to pay the Poundage, and cauſe the ſame to be Regiſtred in ſeven Days after; and declare (upon Oath, if required) the full price the ſaid Horſe or Horſes, *&c.* coſt; and upon default to forfeit to His Majeſty, with encouragement to the Informer.

XI. That any Horſe, *&c.* which ſhall be tranſported out of *England*, and not the Dominions thereunto belonging, (except for His Majeſty's Service) ſhall pay to His Majeſty the ſum of and upon default hereof to forfeit to His Majeſty, with encouragement to the Informer.

There can be no greater Objection made againſt this than the foregoing Propoſals, eſpecially, ſince it is not every Man's occaſion to buy a Horſe, &c. *tho' he keeps ſome; and the Poundage not being above two and an half* per Cent. *which is but little, may be eaſily paid; and beſides, I believe any Man who is about to buy a Horſe,* &c. *that does not think it worth five Shillings more to him than what he is to give for it, will hardly venture to buy it.*

XII. It is further Propoſed to This *Honourable Houſe*, That there may be an Impoſition or Duty laid on all ſorts of Weights whatſoever, wherewith any kind of Thing (be it what it will) is bought or ſold by: And alſo, That there

there be an Impoſition or Duty laid on all ſorts and ſizes of Meaſures whatſoever, either liquid or otherwiſe, or in which Liquors are uſually kept, or bought and ſold by.

XIII. That all Weights and Meaſures, as hereafter mentioned, or comprehended, be obliged to have a Seal, without which they ſhall not be Lawful; and all Perſons whatſoever, ſhall be obliged to give an account of all and every the ſeveral and particular Weights (from a Grain and upwards, as far as Weights are made uſe of, either by Retail or Wholeſale) wherewith they buy or ſell by: And alſo, an account of all and every the ſeveral and particular Meaſures, of what Sorts, or by what Names the ſame may be known or diſtinguiſhed by (whether Wine, or Winchester Meaſures, *&c.* from an half quartern and upwards, as far as the ſame are made uſe of, either by Retail or Wholeſale) to proper Perſons appointed for that purpoſe, at which time they ſhall pay their Money, and have all ſuch Weights and Meaſures Sealed, which ſhall be Booked down in every particular by the ſaid Officer or Officers aforementioned, in order to have the ſame Regiſtred in the proper Office for that purpoſe.

XIV. That all Perſons whatſoever, who ſhall neglect to give an account particularly, of all Weights and Meaſures as above-mentioned, *&c.* or ſhall make uſe of any Weights or Meaſures that have not a diſtinct Seal (according as the ſame ſhall be appointed) in compliance with the intention of theſe Propoſals, ſhall forfeit all and every ſuch Weights and Meaſures he or they ſhall preſume to make uſe of; and likewiſe to His Majeſty, with encouragement to the Informer.

XV. That all Weights made uſe of by Goldſmiths, or any other Perſons who make uſe of the ſame for the

Weights,

Weights, shall pay to His Majesty, for all and every Weight under an Ounce, the sum of one penny each; and for all and every Weight heavier than an Ounce, the sum of two pence.

XVI. That all other Weights not being the same with Goldsmiths Weights, with which any Person or Persons doth Buy or Sell by, shall pay to His Majesty the sum of one penny, for all and every Weight not exceeding ten Pounds; and for all Weights upwards of ten Pounds the sum of two pence.

XVII. That all Weights, as above mentioned, which remain in possession of the Maker, shall be Sealed before they are Sold, (which may be done at the Office) each Weight paying according to the Imposition or Duty above-mentioned.

XVIII. That no Retail Trader whatsoever, shall be liable to pay more than eight Shillings *per Annum*, how many Weights soever he or they have.

XIX. That no Retail Trader whatsoever, who makes use of any Weights to Buy or Sell by, shall pay less than four Shillings *per Annum*.

XX. That all sorts of Measures, either Liquid or otherwise, shall pay according to their proportion, the following Imposition or Duty to His Majesty, in the same manner and form as is to be observed in the foregoing Imposition or Duty on Weights.

XXI. That all sorts of Measures, either Liquid or otherwise; and likewise, either Wine or Winchester Measures, *&c.* not exceeding the Gallon, shall pay to His Majesty, for each Measure, the sum of one penny.

XXII. That all Measures, either Liquid or otherwise; and likewise, either Wine or Winchester Measures, *&c.*

with

with which any Thing whatſoever is Bought or Sold by, (according as the ſame are made uſe of) whether they are of Earth, Wood, or Metal, *&c.* and by what Name ſoever the ſame are called, as Peck, Buſhel, Runlet, Kilderkin, Firkin, Barrel, Hogſhead, Butt, Pipe, *&c.* or what uſe ſoever the ſame are put to, as Beer, Ale, Mum, Syder, Brandy, Strong Waters, or any ſort of Wine, or other Liquors whatſoever, ſhall pay to His Majeſty (each particular here mentioned, or to be underſtood) the ſum of three pence.

XXIII. That all Casks not being ſizeable, (and which are made uſe of in a wholeſale Trade) as Casks for Tobacco, Sugar, Currants, foreign Tallow, Sope, Sope-Aſhes, *&c.* or any other foreign or domeſtick Goods, which are ſold by wholeſale and Cask'd up, ſhall be obliged to pay the ſum of three pence *per* Cask, for all Casks ſo made uſe of, upon the penalty of forfeiting

to His Majeſty, with encouragement to the Informer.

XXIV. That no Perſon or Perſons whatſoever ſhall be exempted this Tax, except ſuch as receive Alms of the Pariſh, or thoſe who cry any thing about the Streets, who ſhall have a Certificate from the Church Wardens of the Pariſh they live in, in order to have their Weights and Meaſures Sealed without paying the Tax.

XXV. That all large Casks which pay the Tax, and by which the wholeſale Trader dealeth, ſhall be paid by the Perſon or Perſons who have them in poſſeſſion.

XXVI. That all Perſons who make uſe of any Meaſures for length, as Yards, Ells, *&c.* (and by which they buy or ſell) ſhall be obliged to make uſe of no other Meaſures than ſuch as hath paid the Tax and been Sealed; and upon

upon default, to forfeit to His Majesty, with encouragement to the Informer.

XXVII. That all Measures for length, as Yards, Ells, *&c.* shall pay to His Majesty (for each Measure mentioned, or to be understood) the sum of three pence.

XXVIII. That no Retail Traders whatsoever, shall be liable to pay more than eight Shillings *per Annum* how many Measures soever he or they have.

XXIX. That no Retail Trader whatsoever, who maketh use of Measures to buy or sell by, shall pay less than four Shillings *per Annum.*

XXX. That all Wholesale Traders, who make use of more Weights and Measures than will amount to eight Shillings *per Annum* (according to the foregoing Assessment) shall pay for the same proportionably to the number he or they have, except such Weights and Measures amount to above sixteen Shillings.

XXXI. That no Traders whatsoever shall pay more than sixteen Shillings *per Annum*, altho they have ever so many Weights and Measures, except such Traders shall have occasion for new Measures, Casks or Weights; and in such case, all new Measures, Casks or Weights, shall pay the full Duty or Imposition, according to these Proposals.

XXXII. That there may be a certain limitation of Time for all Persons to give an account of their Weights and Measures; and that after such Time, all Weights and Measures whatsoever, which are bought new, shall pay the full Duty (over and above what any Person or Persons may have paid for the Annual Imposition) according to the size of such Weights and Measures; and whoever neglects to give an account in time, as aforesaid, (or makes use of any Weights or Measures unsealed, after the expiration

of

of the ſaid time) ſhall forfeit to His Majeſty, with Encouragement to the Informer.

XXXII. That all Tradeſmen, who are Shopkeepers, or others, who Buy and Sell either by wholeſale or retail; or keep Warehouſes, and have no occaſion to make uſe of either Weights or Meaſures, ſhall pay to His Majeſty the Sum of four Shillings *per Annum*, ſo long as the Impoſition on Weights and Meaſures may be thought fit to be continu'd.

XXXIII. That all Weights and Meaſures whatſoever (which are not here mention'd) provided the ſame are in any manner made uſe of in Buying and Selling (of what ſort ſoever they be) ſhall be included in this *Propoſal*; and whoever endeavours to conceal or defraud His Majeſty of all or any part of the Impoſition or Duty on Weights and Meaſures, or any other part of the foregoing *Propoſals*, ſhall forfeit to His Majeſty, with encouragement to the Informer.

XXXIV. That all Houſekeepers ſhall be oblig'd to give an account what their Lodgers are (if they have any) in order that they may pay according to their ſeveral Aſſeſſments; and he that neglects ſo to do, ſhall forfeit to His Majeſty, with encouragement to the Informer.

REASONS *Humbly offer'd for the Impoſition or Duty*, &c. *to be accepted by this* Honourable Houſe.

1*ſt*, THE Wholeſale Trader cannot think himſelf much prejudic'd by this Tax, by reaſon of his great Dealings and the ſmall Impoſition or Duty propos'd; which, in proportion, is ſo inconſiderable, that it will not be worth any particular Perſon's notice: For there is not one wholeſale Trader in ten, that will pay above eight Shillings *per Annum* (and no one to pay above ſixteen) which, according to their Abilities, is very reaſonable.

2*dly*, The Retailers, who generally return leſs Money than the wholeſale Men, are more moderately Aſſeſſed, by reaſon there are hardly any who make uſe of Meaſures exceeding the Gallon, or Weights exceeding the ten Pounder; whereby their part will be ſo ſmall, that no particular Perſon will feel it. Yet Meaſures, as likewiſe Weights, being ſo generally made uſe of, will bring a large Sum of Money into the Treaſury. So that the generality of Retailers, who make uſe of Weights or Meaſures, will not pay (by moderate Computation) above four Shillings *per Annum*, according to the quantity of Weights and Meaſures they have occaſion to make uſe of.

3*dly*, The ſeveral *Propoſals* aformention'd cannot raiſe any ſort of Goods or Commodity whatſoever in the leaſt, by reaſon no particular Trade is Taxed; (but that the ſame is laid on all ſorts whatſoever) and the Impoſition or Duty is ſo ſmall, that there can be no pretence for it.

4*thly*.

4*thly*, The Impoſition upon Shopkeepers, *&c.* who do not make uſe of Weights and Meaſures, is likewiſe ſo ſmall, that the Shopkeepers aforeſaid, *&c.* certainly cannot find fault with it, ſince they pay as little as any other Tradeſmen whatſoever; and are commonly as well able to pay as much.

5*thly*, The ſeveral particulars mention'd in theſe *Propoſals* (if thought fit to be accepted by this *Honourable Houſe*) may all of them be Collected by the ſame Officers all over *England*. For,

6*thly*, The Poll-Tax on Horſes, *&c.* (as propos'd) may be Collected by Officers appointed in every particular Pariſh throughout the Kingdom.

7*thly*, The ſame Officers may readily Diſpatch and Seal all Weights and Meaſures, and take a particular and exact Account thereof, and for whom; which ſaid Account ſhall be ſent up (or a Copy) to ſome proper Perſon or Perſons appointed for that purpoſe, to whom they ſhall ſend the Money by them received likewiſe, which may be forthwith Regiſter'd at an Office, *&c.*

8*thly*, Theſe Officers to be Houſekeepers, or otherwiſe Reſidents in the Pariſh, where they gather and collect the ſeveral Taxes as above propos'd; or the ſame Officers may Collect for ſeveral Pariſhes, as is requiſite or neceſſary.

9*thly*, The ſame Perſons being Reſidents may attend all Fairs and Markets, who may likewiſe Regiſter and give an Account of all Horſes, *&c.* Bought and Sold, as the ſame ſhall occur.

10*thly*, 'Tis humbly ſuppos'd the foregoing *Propoſals* will (if worthy Acceptance) bring into His Majeſty's Treaſury

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ſury the firſt Year, by Computation, at leaſt two hundred and fifty thouſand Pounds; and two hundred thouſand Pounds *per Annum* ſo long as the ſame may be continu'd. There can be no great certainty how much more Money this Tax will raiſe (but the number of Tradeſmen who will be oblig'd to pay to it, are ſo great, that it may be ſuppos'd, a far larger Sum will be brought into His Majeſty's Exchequer) by reaſon the Majority of the People of *England* will pay ſomething. But how many there are to pay, or how much each Perſon will be Aſſeſſed, muſt, at preſent, remain uncertain, by reaſon there have not been Precedents in this nature to give a true Information.

So that after *Your Honours* have, in Your great Wiſdom, maturely conſidered the foregoing Propoſals in their ſeveral and particular Circumſtances, I hope, *Your Honours* will paſs a favourable conſtruction on the endeavours of Your Propoſer, (who entirely aims at the Service of His Majeſty and His Kingdom, by offering that, which *Your Honours*, in Your great Wiſdom, I hope, will Judge ſerviceable to the Nation at this juncture; and not burthenſome to the Subjects thereunto belonging) and according to the Merits of his Service, he humbly begs You will grant him the encouragement he may deſerve, *&c.*

John Smith.